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50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

Education

1. Between 1947 and 1949 the staff of the Lithuanian Boys' Gymnasium No. 1 in Panevezys (55-44N, 24-27E), Lithuanian SSR, included the following persons:¹

a. Janulionis (fnu), director

b. Vizbaraite, Miss (fnu), geography teacher in the fifth class.

c. Vebriene, Mrs. (fnu), geography teacher.

d. Sauliuvienė, Mrs. (fnu), history teacher.

e. Spokevicius (fnu), who taught government in the fourth class.

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

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SECRET

-2-

f. Vitkauskas (fnu), teacher of Lithuanian.

g. Variakojis (fnu), athletics instructor.

h. Tvarkunas (fnu), athletics instructor.

i. Daukaite, Miss (fnu), physics teacher.

j. Polujanskaite, Miss (fnu), geology teacher.

2. All junior members of the gymnasium teaching staff must belong to the Komsomol. Gymnasium pupils are also forced to join the Komsomol. One by one they are called into the teacher's room and are forced to become members. Pupils in the graduating class must be Komsomol members in order to receive the school certificate which allows them to continue their studies at the university.

3. [redacted] the Panevezys Boys' Gymnasium No. 1 is superior to other Lithuanian gymnasiums. Despite all Soviet efforts and pressures, the pupils there are patriotic Lithuanians and are full of hatred for the Red oppressors. [redacted] 90 percent of the pupils as good Lithuanians but [redacted] were the opportunity to occur, all the pupils at this gymnasium would rise to make an end of the Reds.

50X1-HUM

4. At the beginning of the 1946 school year, there was an anti-Communist group active at the Panevezys Boys' Gymnasium. The members of this group wrote proclamations and pamphlets aimed at keeping up the spirits of the people against the Red oppressors. After the 16 February 1946 celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day (a holiday which is still celebrated by all Lithuanians), one member of this anti-Communist group was denounced and arrested. He was faced with a choice of betraying his friends or being tortured and deported.

[redacted] he was later released and other members of the group were arrested. The traitor was later taken by the partisans and presumably killed for treason. At that time (1946) pupils of the gymnasium had to go to the forest to cut firewood for heating the school. One night the partisans raided the wood choppers and took the boy off.

50X1-HUM

5. There were other instances in Panevezys of anti-Soviet activity by students. In 1949 a pupil in the fifth class knocked the head off a statue in the Soviet officers' cemetery. The student was caught and sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment, and his parents were deported to Siberia. On another occasion, a student threw an object at a picture of Stalin, which had replaced a crucifix over the

SECRET

50X1-HUM

SECRET

-3-

blackboard in the classroom. The damaged picture was burned the next morning by the janitor, but the story in some way reached Panevezys Communist Party officials. The student was immediately dismissed from school.

6. Most of the teachers on the staff of the Panevezys Gymnasium for Working Youths (Darbo Jaunimo Vidurine Mokykla) were young people.² In 1950 the staff included the following persons:

a. Raila (fnu), director.

50X1-HUM

b. Ceckiene, Mrs. (fnu), teacher of Russian.

7. The director of the Panevezys Teachers' College is Kukuraitis (fnu). Only those students who receive special recommendations from the rayon administration are admitted to the Teachers' College. Children of "bourgeois or counter-revolutionary elements" are excluded from admission. 50X1-HUM

Industry

8. [redacted] the following story of discipline in a Panevezys factory. A newly-employed sack-carrier in a soap factory picked up a small piece of soap and headed for the factory wash house. On the way the employee was stopped and was accused of being a thief of state property. He was personally discharged by the plant director.

50X1-HUM

9. [redacted] no factory supervisor can keep his position longer than six months to a year before being sent to prison. [redacted] many former factory directors and engineers are now in jail.

50X1-HUM

10. The Dembava brick factory is located four kilometers beyond Panevezys.⁴

11. The chief of the personnel section at the Klaipeda Marines' and Fishermen's Base (Jurininku Zveju Baze) is Vasil Vasilevitch Marko (sic: probably Markov).³

Justice

12. [redacted] state prosecution for speculating which took place in Panevezys around April 1950. A woman was suspected of speculating in leather. The militia searched the woman's home and found material for soles for one pair of shoes and material for making a pair of boots. It was good prewar material which the woman's husband had officially received from a sales office (realizavimo baze) where he worked. Even though the woman showed an official receipt for the material, she was questioned at length and finally taken to jail. All the shoemakers in Panevezys, as well as persons from other villages, were called as witnesses. When the witnesses were interrogated by the militia, they stated that they never knew the woman personally and had never bought anything from her. However, under pressure, they were forced to sign statements which they had never made. Three persons flatly refused to sign a statement, and they were put in jail. They were told that if they did not sign, they would be given sentences and their families would be deported to Siberia. One of the three gave in and signed a statement. Another villager, a relative of the prosecutor, also signed a statement admitting that in 1947 he had bought leather from someone in front of the hospital. On the day of the trial,

50X1-HUM

SECRET

50X1-HUM

SECRET

-4-

witnesses were called one by one. They told the judge, Miss Dragunaite (fnu), that at the prosecutor's office they had been threatened with imprisonment and deportation to Siberia and, as a result, had signed statements. It developed that no one had ever bought anything from the woman, and most of the witnesses were not even acquainted with her. One of the witnesses protested publicly: "Comrade Prosecutor, did you not threaten to deport me to Siberia? What could I do? If I had not signed, you would have put me in prison as you did the other witnesses. I can prove with hundreds of medical certificates that my wife has a serious heart disease. She would have died from such a shock. Who would have been responsible for her death?" The people in court began protesting and shouted that what the man said was the truth. The prosecutor, Mr. Peleckis (fnu), reddened, started shuffling his papers, and finally ordered the protesting witness to leave the courtroom at once. The chief witness for the prosecution also stated that he had been forced to sign a false statement. Basing his plea on those admissions, Mr. Sceponavicius (fnu), the defense lawyer, raised accusations against the methods of the militia and prosecution. None of this helped the woman, who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. An appeal was filed and on 26 October 1950 the case was reopened before Judge Rajackas (fnu). Rajackas had some knowledge of law, since he had been a court clerk before the war. Rajackas reversed the Dragunaite decision. Prosecutor Peleckis appealed this new decision to Moscow, but Moscow decided against him. However, defense lawyer Sceponavicius was later dismissed from his duties for having spoken during the trial against the militia and prosecutor, and he now works as a clerk in the office of the Panevezys Food Combine (Maisto Kombinat).

50X1-HUM

13. Zubas (fnu) is secretary of the Panevezys court.
14. The Lukiskis prison in Vilnius is the largest prison for political prisoners in Lithuania. Food can be brought to prisoners, but it must be turned in at the MGB pass office.

50X1-HUM

1. Comment: it is believed that there is only one Lithuanian boys' gymnasium and one Lithuanian girls' gymnasium in Panevezys. The numerical designations contained in present report are thus taken to identify the two Lithuanian gymnasiums, No. 1 being the boys' gymnasium and No. 2 being the girls' gymnasium.
- 2.
3. Comment: Nikolay Mikhailovich Markov Chief of the Personnel (Cadre) Section of the Trawling Fleet Administration.
4. Comment: No previous information available on the Dembava Factory.

50X1-HUM

SECRET